THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN): (a) In the Tea Marketing Policy for 1985 a production target of 655 million kgs. has been fixed which is likely to be achieved.

(b) Government have recently sanctioned a uninational cum brand promotion compaign in the Middle East on a pilot basis. This is an addition to recent efforts to check misrepresentation of Darjeeling tea and promote the image of Indian tea as quality tea. Tea Board's normal schemes provide assistance for brand promotion in warehousing abroad as well as CCS on value added teas.

Maternity benefits, child care and Welfare services for Female Agricultural workers

*315. SHRI RAMSINGBHAI PATALIYABHAI RATHVAKOLI: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) what are the existing plans and schemes for providing maternity benefits child care and welfare services for famale agricultural workers in the country;

(b) whether any guidelines exist or have recently been issued in this regard;

(c) how far it is being carried out and being implemented in Gujarat and various other States;

(d) how much amount had been given for the purpose to Gujarat and other States during Ist January, 1983 to 31st October, 1985;

(e) whether Government have received some concrete proposals for providing more such benefits in this field; and

(f) if so. what are the details thereof and what action is proposed to be taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI T. ANJAIAH): (a) to (b) Maternity benefits are regulated under the provisions of the Maternity Benefit Act, 1961 and under the scheme of the Employees State Insurance Act. 1948. The Maternity Benefit Act is applicable to every establishment being a factory, mine or plantation and to every establishment where persons are employed for the exhibition of equestarian, acrobatic and other performances. But the State Government may, with the approval of the Central Government, declare that all or any of the provisions of the Act shall apply also to any other establishment or class of establishments, industrial, commercial or agricultural. So far as the Central Government is concerned, in May, 1984 the State Governments were requested to consider extension of the provisions of Act to agriculture farms organised on commercial scale. There has, however, been no positive response from the State Governments so far. The initiative for extending the benefits of the Act, therefore, primarily rests with the State Governments. So far as the agriculture workers are concerned, including female workers, their interests are primarily guarded by the provisions of the Equal Remuneration Act and Minimum Wages Act. Under these Acts no guidelines exist for child care or welfare services.

The maternity benefits under the Employees State Insurance Act also are admissible only to the insured persons and do not extend to the female agriculture workers.

In view of the above, the question of allocating funds to the State Governments for maternity, child care and welfare services for female agriculture worker does not arise. From the Ministry of Labour, no funds have been allocated for the purpose during the period 1-1-83 to 31-10-85. Also there is no proposal in the Ministry from any State Government for

to the female agriculture workers, extending the maternity benefits, etc.

Special programmes for child labour

*316. SHRI KALPNATH RAI: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether any special programmes have been launched by Government for the benefit of child labour;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what progress has so far been made towards the implementation of those programmes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI T. ANJAIAH): (a) to (c) Following are the programmes launched for the benefit of child labour by the Ministry of Labour.

(1) The Ministry is extending financial assistance to voluntary organisations which undertake action programmes concerning welfare of working children, namely, health, nutrition, formal and non-formal education, vocational training, or conduct useful research in the field of child labour. A number of voluntary organisations have, with the support of the Ministry of labour, undertaken action-oriented programmes and research projects.

(2) Government has also proposes to launch two pilot projects for the benefit of child labour in two specific areas where there is concentration of child labour, namely, Mizoram-Bhadhoi belt of carpet industry in U.P. and match and fire works industry in Sivakasi, Tamil Nadu. The aim of these projects is—

(a) to raise the income levels of the families of the child workers by covering them under the existing income generating schemes,

(b) to provide non-formal education to the child workers and to their parents,

(c) to provide better health care to the child workers,

(d) to improve the conditions of work and terms of employment of the children,

(e) to improve the nutritional levels of the child workers, and

(f) to raise the general awareness and social consciousness of the people of the area.

The detail of the projects are under discussion with the State Governments of U.P. and Tamil Nadu.

New-item captioned "Gloomy prospects for iron ore in 1986"

*317. SHRI DINKARRAO GOVINDRAO PATIL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's atention has been drawn to a newsitem captioned "Gloomy prospects for iron ore in 1986" which appeared in the *Business Standard* of the 18th November, 1985;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what steps Government propose to take in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN): (a) Yes. Sir.

(b) The news item has commented upon steel production in Japan, China and EEC countries and expected impact of their changing requirements on iron ore exports in 1986 from the two largest iron ore exporting countries of Brazil and Australia. It has also analysed pig iron and steel production and consumption trends in India.

(c) Iron ore prices are governed by production and consumption of